

The Habing reference is directed to a display apparatus having a high and low light level operating mode. The Habing reference discloses a display surface 26 partially enclosed by a housing 12 comprising a flat base 14 and walls 16, 18, 20, 22. The walls 16, 18, 20, 22 create a space between the display surface 26 and the base 14. Two light sources 28, 32 are positioned between the base 14 and display surface 26. Light generated by these light sources 28, 32 is diffusively reflected toward the display surface 26 by the reflective surface coating 24 on walls 16, 18, 20, 22. See, e.g., Habing, col. 2, lines 34-58 and Fig. 2. The Habing reference, however, does not disclose the use of a light pipe to conduct light from the light sources 28, 32 to the display surface 26. Thus, the Habing reference teaches no more than the Applicant's admitted prior art. See, e.g., Figures 2 and 3 of the present Application.

In contrast, the present invention, teaches novel methods and apparatus for incorporating the light pipe function of a backlight LCD into the LCD housing. Contrast Figures 2 (Prior Art) and 4 of the present Application. In the present invention, the light pipe function is performed by the LCD housing -- light generated by the light source is coupled into the LCD housing which, in turn, conducts the light to the LCD. This novel aspect of the present invention is embodied in each of the independent claims. See claim 1 ("wherein the LCD housing conducts light from the light source to the LCD"), claim 16 ("wherein the housing means is for conducting light between the means for generating light and the display panel") and claim 17 ("conducting the generated light through the LCD housing"). As discussed in the Application, this provides the laptop designer with greater design flexibility.

B. Other Cited References

The Examiner has also asserted that "[s]ome of the cited relevant references may also read on the Applicant's invention as presently claimed." Because such an analysis was not undertaken by the Examiner, the Applicant understands this statement to mean that the Examiner considers each of the cited references to be merely cumulative to the Habing reference. As such, the Applicant submits that the cited references, alone or in combination, also teach no more than the Applicant's admitted prior art.

C. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and preceding remarks, it is urged respectfully that the rejection of the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed. However, if the Examiner believes that any issues remain unresolved, he is invited to telephone the undersigned to expedite allowance. Upon receiving the Notice of Allowance, the applicant will submit formal drawings.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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By _____



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